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## Jim Meherg—One of Shelton's First Students

**H**e's one of the area's leading citizens, born, raised and educated in Tuscaloosa County. For Jim Meherg, owner of Century 21 Real Estate Services, life is fun, full of hard work, with a lot of ups and downs. He's traveled around the world but believes Tuscaloosa is absolutely the best place to live.

A senior at Tuscaloosa County High School in 1956-57, Jim had extra time in his class



*Jim Meherg with Margaret Price at an alumni function*

schedule and decided to take a course in automotive technology at J.P. Shelton Trade School, which was then located where Home Depot now stands on Veterans Memorial Parkway. A young school, the J.P. Shelton Trade School had just opened its doors in 1952 as one of the first two-year colleges in the state.

In the class Jim learned the skills he needed to rebuild a 1949 Chevy Fleetwood. "It was the most enjoyable year of my life," Jim says. "I loved that old car. We 'souped' it up good. Skyland Boulevard

## Lisa Matherson— Her Career Began At Shelton

**F**or Lisa Matherson, Shelton State Community College has been a part of her life since high school. A native of Moundville, Alabama, Lisa graduated from Hale County High School in 1985 and began her college career at Shelton State that same year.

"There was one main reason I first came to Shelton State. I graduated from a small high school and wasn't ready for a large college or university. Shelton State



*Homecoming 2001, alumni council member Lisa Matherson.*

was there to fill a need," Lisa said.

While at Shelton, Lisa was a college work-study student. After receiving her associate degree, she transferred to the University of Alabama where she



# Valerie Duncan Now Working At UA

Everyone at Shelton State recognizes the strong relationship between Shelton State Community College and the University of Alabama. So many students attend Shelton State and then transfer to the University. The majority of Shelton State instructors are graduates of the University. But for Valerie Duncan the relationship goes one step further.

Valerie, who majored in business

administration at Shelton State, went on the graduate from the University of

Alabama with a degree in marketing. Recently,

the University created a new position, rental coordinator, and hired her for the position. As rental coordinator, Valerie works to find people to rent the

"The marketing skills I learned at Shelton help me working with various groups and businesses...."

Museum of National History (Smith Hall), Moundville Archeological

Park, and the Gorgas House on the University of Alabama campus.

The attractive redhead says she enjoys sales and marketing. "The marketing skills I learned at Shelton help me when working with various groups and businesses.

I'll also be developing a brochure for the program. Part of my job will include working with University of Alabama alumni chapters in other states who may want to return to campus for homecoming or other weekends."

Originally from Moundville, Alabama, Valerie recently moved to Tuscaloosa's Historic District. "I enjoy living this close to the University and to town," she says.

## Carruth Receives More Honors

Shelton State graduate Kimberly Carruth continues to receive national recognition. Kimberly, who is a Redken stylist, had one of her hair styles featured in *Modern Salon* magazine's August 2001 issue. The model for the photo shoot was Kimberly's sister, Christina. Each month, under the magazine's "Editor's Pick," three styles are selected. Kimberly's style cut in the photo was a staggered bob.

"One of my goals was to be published nationally," Kimberly said. "Next time I want to try a style with longer hair."

Kimberly also served as the hair stylist for the recent movie shot in Tuscaloosa.

## Lisa Matherson—Her Career Began At Shelton *continued from page 1*

graduated in 2002 with a degree in education. While in school, she married and began to raise a family. Once again Shelton was part of her life as she continued to work at the college while completing her degree.

However, teaching was her love. After graduating from the University, she took a job at Warrior Academy teaching grades 7 - 12. "I love teaching," she says. "Just watching a child's eyes light up when something connects is wonderful. I guess I'll stay in teaching until God tells me I can't."

"Shelton State has changed dramatically in the 15 years I've been involved with the college. It's all been positive too. I'd like to see Shelton continue on the road they've now started," she says.

Lisa continues to help the college move along that road. She is one of the founding members of the Shelton State Alumni Association and serves as secretary of the organization.

"I tell my high school seniors, if you're not ready for a big school, Shelton State is the place for you to be. The teachers at Shelton know your face and name, and that's not always possible at a large college," she says.



# Where Were You In '52?

In September Shelton State will begin its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the **Shelton State Jubilee**. The Jubilee will continue through April 2003 with special events and activities planned each month. As part of the celebration, the college is working to identify former students, especially those who attended the college during the early years.

Shelton State is especially looking for students who attended the institution during the 1950s when the college was named the J.P. Shelton Trade School that was located where Home Depot now stands. These students were the first to attend the college and will be recognized during the Jubilee.

If you, someone in your family, or even a friend attended Shelton State at some point in its history, we want to know it. If you were at student at J.P. Shelton Trade School, Shelton State Technical Institute, Shelton State Technical College, Shelton State Community College, Tuscaloosa Branch of Brewer State Junior College, or C.A. Fredd State Technical College, we are looking for you.

Please call the Alumni Office at Shelton State Community College, (205) 391-2221 or 391-2252.

## Jim Meherg—One of Shelton's First Students

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had just opened up but no businesses were located on it so we used it as a race track. That area was really out in the country then."

"You know what," Jim continues, "that course in auto mechanics has followed me all my life. I've been able to tune up my own car. It's helps me find the problems on my own cars when they arise."

"After my year at Shelton, I went on to the University of Alabama and then went to work for the navy at the shipyard in Charleston, South Carolina. As a civilian, I worked for the navy 32 years. For a while, I worked for naval intelligence and then in special services. I trained as a diver. During one of my training sessions, I trained with the Navy Seals when they needed a civilian. Eventually, I was promoted to nuclear director where our specialty was making nuclear submarines.

"I retired in 1992. I always

dreamed of moving back to Tuscaloosa, but that dream became a reality when I met Verta (Barr). She was the reason I moved back to Tuscaloosa.

With his eventual marriage to Verta, the Mehergs launched another business while still involving themselves in community work. In 1994, Jim bought a Century 21 franchise and opened the current location.

Life has been busy for Jim and Verta. Unfortunately, their home was in the path of the devastating tornado in 2000 that destroyed so much of the southern part of the county. "We spent three months in the Comfort Inn," Jim said. "However, now that it's rebuilt, everything is fine again."

Both Jim and Verta are actively involved in the community. Jim is a member of the Exchange Club where he recently received an award for "Outstanding and Dedicated Service." He is

active in the Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board for Easter Seals.

Jim and Verta have given many hours of service to Shelton. Verta is a member and past president of the Shelton State Foundation Board of Directors. Jim serves as an officer on the Alumni Council.

Jim hopes to see in the future more new growth in Tuscaloosa. He would especially like to see a civic center in town. For Shelton, he thinks continued growth for the college should be emphasized.

"We have a friend whose child is a good athlete. He is also a good student and could go to college wherever he wanted to go. However, he chose Shelton and will play baseball for the college. He felt Shelton was a good stepping-stone from high school. There are lots of students in this area like that," he says.

## SHELTON STATE NAMES NEW DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

Camille Powell Cochrane has been named the new dean of instruction for Shelton State Community College, according to Shelton President Rick Rogers. Cochrane has served as acting dean of instruction for the college since September 2001.

A native of Northport, Cochrane is a graduate of the University of Alabama, receiving her B.S. and M.A. degrees in mathematics from the University. She joined the faculty at Shelton State in 1979 as a mathematics instructor and served as chair of the department from 1997-2001. While at Shelton, she served as the project director for the minority science/mathematics improvement project from 1995-96 and coordinated developmental mathematics for the college from 1998-2001.

In 2000 she received the Dr. and Mrs. John Todd Award for Exceptional Achievement in Teaching. Cochrane is a member of the Shelton State Alumni Association, the School-To-Career Steering committee, the Workforce Development Committee, the National Council of Instructional Administrators, the Alabama College System Instructional Officers Association, the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Former Shelton Student Receives Award

**A**ndy Cicero, a former Shelton State student who is now vice president and general manager of Alabama Protective Services, has been named 2001 Associate of the Year for the Home Builders Association of Tuscaloosa.

Cicero has served on the board of directors, the executive committee, the Remodelers Council and as chairman of the Home Builders Association Council. He has also been involved with Christmas in April and Habitat for Humanity.

## Kubiszyn Bids Goodbye To Alumni Association

**L**ucy Kubiszyn, director of public relations and alumni affairs for the college, retires this summer after 22 years with Shelton State. Although no longer in her present position, Kubiszyn will continue part-time with the college over the next year coordinating activities for the Shelton State Jubilee. At the last meeting of Shelton State's Alumni Council, members and Kubiszyn enjoyed their final meeting together.



*Lucy Kubiszyn and alumni president David Hill enjoy an alumni council meeting.*

## Join the Shelton State Alumni Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$15.00

## Staying Involved...

**T**he Shelton State Alumni Association is one of the most active community college alumni associations in the state of Alabama. The Alumni Association, which was organized in 1994, serves as a support group for the college and a network for former students. If you would like more information on the Shelton State Alumni Association, contact the alumni office, (205) 391-2252 or 391-2221. You can also fax us at the Alumni Office, (205) 391-3912, or e-mail at [lkubiszyn@sheltonstate.edu](mailto:lkubiszyn@sheltonstate.edu).

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